Missioner

IN OUR PIONEERING DAYS

We learned recently of the death of the Rev. H.E. Cole (formerly Captain Cole) on the 15th August. During 28 years as a Church Army Evangelist, Captain Cole served in many places and in a variety of positions. Following are quotes from some articles written by him during his time in the Church Army, and other pieces of news from old issues of The Pioneer.

TRAINED COMMISSIONED AND SENT FORTH - December 1951

"Little did I know, when I was a student in the old Church Army Training College at Adamstown, that 15 years later I would be the Training College Captain welcoming new students to the College, and sharing in the task of training them as Evangelists ....

"When I look back over the past 15 years and think of the amazing variety of tasks which have fallen to my lot, and remember the extraordinary experiences which have been mine, I thank God for every minute of the valuable training I received both in College and in the field. Imagine the varied climatic conditions from Tasmania to Darwin, from Brisbane to Adelaide; of caravaning days in the rural parts of Victoria, through dairying districts, timber camps, gold mining areas, and coal fields; the changing scenes from the mountainous country of the Great Dividing Range to the long sandy beaches of the South Coast. Then four years of war among the troops in Northern Territory and New South Wales, and finally two years with a Mobile Cinema Unit showing Religious Films throughout the Eastern States to every variety of gathering from school children to holiday makers on the beaches; from Sunday congregations in church to prisoners in gaol. This bewildering change of service and scene requires an adaptability which only a specialised training can give."

Captain Cole (centre) with (left) the Rev. G. Coad (former C.A. Captain) and the Rev. A.W. Batley (former Federal Secretary).

A WEDDING HAS BEEN ARRANGED - December 1956

"We are happy to announce the engagement of Captain H.E. Cole to Sister J. Cryer. Both are on the Staff of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Mission in North Queensland; Captain as Superintendent and Sister Cryer in the oversight of Welfare Work among women and children ...."

1959 "After staff work at H.Q.'s and Training College, three and a half years were spent in a new experiment of a layman being placed in charge of an established Mission Station for Aborigines at Yarrabah, North Queensland. During these difficult years of transition from kero lamps to electric light, bullocks to crawler tractor, buckets to reticulated water supply, thatched humpies to sawn timber-framed, galvanised iron roofed houses, came an established effort for the betterment of these true Australians for whom still more must be done.

"More than ever today is the need for the Evangelist to be active for Christ. More are being born in the flesh than of the Spirit, and the last 25 years of experience in the Church Army makes crystal clear the conviction that only as men proclaim the Love of God in Jesus Christ will men choose the best

(Continued page 10)

MISSIONARY TO HER PEOPLE

LATE IN MAY THIS YEAR, AT ALL SAINTS' GORDONVALE, NORTH QUEENSLAND, A "LARGE CONGREGATION OF ALL RACES CAME FROM MANY PLACES TO SAY 'FAREWELL' TO ONE OF THE MUCH LOVED SAINTS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD."

The "Saint" was Mrs. Muriel Underwood - for 32 years Sister Muriel Stanley of the Church Army - and she passed away on May 18th in Gordonvale.

The following quotes, from old issues of The Pioneer and other writing, will give you some insight into the life of this amazing lady.

She came from Yarrabah Aboriginal Settlement in Queensland in 1938 to train as a Sister and during her training was on the staff of children's homes in the Newcastle Diocese.

After her commissioning in 1941 she served in children's homes in Tasmania and Armidale ....

"She then asked to be trained as a nurse so that she could be better equipped to return to her own people as a Missionary. This was indeed a problem, for no coloured girl had, up to that time, been accepted for hospital training. After a number of unsuccessful attempts, she was finally accepted by the South Sydney Women's Hospital, for training in obstetrics. Her success was such that she was asked to remain in Sydney and was offered an attractive post, but she remained loyal to her 'call from God' and asked to be sent back to her own people as a Church Army Sister and maternity nurse."

AUGUST 1952 *"The Mission Hospital at Yarrabah, for which Sister Stanley has been responsible, has now been taken over by the Cairns Hospital Board. The authorities have been sufficiently impressed by Sister Stanley's work to confirm her appointment as Matron, and we feel this is a fitting tribute to the splendid work she is doing."*

DECEMBER 1958 *".... Sister Muriel Stanley, our Aborigine Sister .... is to visit England for a special two years' course in Moral Welfare work with our Parent Society. She will be the first Aboriginal Officer to travel overseas, ..."*

JUNE 1961 "Sister Muriel Stanley, the writer of this article, is a Pioneer. .... With a long experience of Christian work behind her, she is now pioneering the moral welfare work amongst her own people in Cairns ....

"It is grand to be back in Australia, though I shall treasure very happy memories of my stay in England ....

"On March 1st I started work as Welfare Officer to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands people living in Cairns and the district round about. This is a Diocesan appointment, but my work comes under the immediate direction of the Rector of Cairns, and it includes visiting the people in their homes, assisting with hygiene and home management, representing the needs of the people to local authorities, explaining to the people the implications of citizenship, ass-

Sister Stanley with the Chief Secretary of the C.A. in England(1959), the Rev. E. Wilson Carlile (grandson of the Founder).

(Continued page 10)

News and Notes

APOLOGY: When the last Pioneer went to print, we were planning the Opening of our new Federal Office on Sunday, the 2nd September.

Building hold-ups forced us to change the Opening to the 21st October. I asked the printer to change the article on page 2, but overlooked mention of the Opening on the Prayer Page.

My apologies to anyone who was inconvenienced by the confusion.

(The Editor)

SPECIAL APPEAL: *We conveyed our thanks for response to our Special Appeal in the last issue of The Pioneer.*

Although the Appeal was launched in the early part of the year, donations have still been coming in recently, and the total is now over $10,000 - and we give thanks to God for this generous provision.

BIRTHDAY APPEAL: Our grateful thanks to all those who responded to our 45th Birthday Appeal, and especially to those who have not been personally thanked, because they did not request a receipt.

Unfortunately, the mail strike has slowed things up, but, at the time of going to print, the total is $1,675.20.

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* **ENGAGEMENT!** *We are happy to announce the engagement of Sister Lyn Russell to Mr. Geoffrey Cox. Lyn is at present working in the Parish of Epping, in Sydney, and Geoffrey lives in the Sydney suburb of Bexley.*
*
* *We wish them every happiness for the future.*
*
* *

GOSFORD BOOKSHOP: On Monday, the 23rd August, 1976, we opened a Bookshop at Gosford, on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

Over the past few months, our Executive Board, together with the Bookshop Manager (Captain Neil Payne), has been looking at the Gosford Bookshop, and, after considering all aspects, it was decided to close the shop when the lease expired on the 16th August this year.

Captain Payne has been in contact with clergy in the Gosford area, to assure them of continuous service and assistance by the Newcastle Bookshop.

We would like to express our grateful thanks to Mrs. Gwen Bolton, Miss Sarah Hunter and those who have worked voluntarily at the Gosford Shop.

OUR STAFF CONFERENCE *is held every two years, and the next one will be from the 19th to the 25th January, 1980. The Chaplain and Study Leader will be the Right Rev. J.B.R. Grindrod, Bishop of Rockhampton.*

Conference is an opportunity for Officers, wives and families to get together for fellowship, refreshment and relaxation. Please pray for all plans and for Bishop Grindrod and others who will be speakers there.

ADMITTING & COMMISSIONING: On Sunday, 20th January, 1980, three young people will be admitted to the Office of Evangelist and commissioned as Officers of the Church Army.

They are Jenny Thomson, Carol Tokley and Phillip Jackson, and their Admitting and Commissioning will take place at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.

See the next issue of The Pioneer for more details.

FRIDAY

THE COLLEGE OF EVANGELISM:

The Principal, The Rev. G.L. MacRobb, Mrs. MacRobb, Michael & Katrina.
All Lecturers. *The Cook,* Mrs. S. Allen.
Candidates' committee and our need of suitable candidates.
Second Year Students: Jenny Thomson, Carol Tokley, Phillip Jackson.
First Year Students: Rae Kennedy, Jill Morrow, Peter Middleton (N.Z.), Glen Scott, Bob Stubbs, John Symons, David Woodyard.

* *

Please pray ...

for the following activities: -

VISIT TO DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE 30 September and following *(Captains G.A. Page, B. Mattinson, C. Thiele, the Rev. G. MacRobb, Sister P. Free)*

VISIT TO DIOCESE OF BENDIGO 6-7 October *(Captains G.A. Page, B. Mattinson, M. Rogers)*

PARISH MISSION 7-14 October, Parish of Kotara South, N.S.W. *(The Rev. G.L. MacRobb, Sister W. Ferguson, and College Students)*

OPENING OF NEW FEDERAL OFFICE AT BELROSE 21 October, 3 p.m., *by the Primate, the Most Reverend Sir Marcus Loane.*

PARISH MISSION 21-28 October, Parish of Gulgong, N.S.W. *(Captain G.A. Page and Sister L. Bullard)*

PARISH LIFE-STYLE WORKSHOP 26-28 October, Parish of Nambucca Heads, N.S.W. *(The Rev. G.L. MacRobb)*

PARISH MISSION 28 October - 4 November, Parish of Claremont, Qld. *(Captain K. Cullen)*

PARISH LIFE-STYLE WORKSHOP 2-4 November, Parish of Coffs Harbour, N.S.W. *(The Rev. G.L. MacRobb)*

PARISH MISSION 14-18 November, Parish of Molong, N.S.W. *(Captain K. Cullen)*

PARISH LIFE-STYLE WORKSHOP 16-18 November, Parish of Lyons-Chifley, A.C.T. *(The Rev. G.L. MacRobb)*

PARISH LIFE-STYLE WORKSHOP AND PATRONAL FESTIVAL 23-25 November, Diocese of Grafton, N.S.W. *(The Rev. G.L. MacRobb)*

PRISON CHAPLAIN

THE REV. R.L. GWILT, CHURCH ARMY ASSOCIATE EVANGELIST

What lies behind the high forbidding walls of a prison? Possibly the question has never entered your mind. Yet within the confines of those walls is a miniature of the larger society of which we are all members. The harsh reality of prison represents something of the sickness in society, just as a barometer records weather patterns.

As Anglican Chaplain to the Department of Corrections in Western Australia, I spend most of my time at Fremantle Prison, which is the State's largest and the maximum security prison. Every few weeks I visit the women's prison and the low security centres near Perth and occasionally the more distant regional prisons.

There is probably no set way in which a chaplain works in a prison, because there is always a need for flexibility to meet every situation. The day begins with brief interviews with all or most of the new inmates who arrived the previous day. The Roman Catholic Chaplain sees his own men and I try to see all the others no matter what is recorded under the heading of 'Religion'.

The response from the men differs widely, but I try to make a friendly, informal approach and establish the basis of a relationship that can be built on if possible. Often a man is tense and nervous, angry or bewildered, anxious about his wife or family members and sometimes frightened by the whole process of having been arrested and put into prison. I soon discovered a box of tissues was a useful 'tool of trade' to have on hand.

These initial daily contacts plus other contacts made when visiting around the prison result in numbers of men wanting to make arrangements to talk further. Every afternoon is spent in interviews from these contacts and from special requests.

The 9 a.m. Sunday services of Holy Communion are encouraging, with from 30 to 50 men attending and always some aboriginal men among them. The reasons for coming to Church may vary greatly, but I believe there are clear indications that God often speaks to those who gather for worship. I am assisted by a small group of lay people who provide music and valuable prayer support. Other prayer partners whom God has provided are an integral part of this ministry.

SO WHAT IS GOD DOING BEHIND THE FORBIDDING GREY WALLS OF THIS PRISON?

I'm sure He is doing far more than I'm aware of, but I do know of many men who now know Jesus Christ as their Saviour, Lord and Friend. And some also know the healing power of Jesus Christ as He has ministered to their needs of body, soul or spirit. A common factor with many I meet is a deep experience of rejection, often from early in life. An area for concern is the involvement some men have had deliberately or casually with the occult. This breeds many problems and I believe few people are aware of the terrible danger they expose themselves to when dabbling in this area. Addiction to drugs or alcohol, which always seem to be symptoms of emotional privation and spiritual needs, are met with frequently. Society must have its proper pro-

Book orders

continued. See page 12 for other details.

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THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH ARMY: The Church Army was founded in England in 1882, by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay Society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous Societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these Societies are also at work in Germany, South America, South Africa, Botswana, West Pakistan and Italy.